Use of US aid by Pakistan

†1460. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SMT. MAYA SINGH:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that financial aid worth millions of rupees from US was given to Pakistan to keep a check on the terrorists;

(b) whether that amount was used by Pakistan for procuring ammunition and F-16 aircrafts to be used against India instead of using the same amount against the terrorist;

(c) whether this fact is being brought into America's notice by Government; and

(d) if so, the reaction of US Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Richard A. Boucher, the US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, said in testimony before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on US Foreign Assistance to Pakistan on December 6, 2007 that since 2002 the US has provided to Pakistan economic assistance totalling $ 2.4 billion. Since 2002, the United States has also provided security assistance to Pakistan totalling $ 1.9 billion. In addition, it has provided $ 5.3 billion in Coalition Support Funds to reimburse Pakistan for expenses incurred in the 'War on Terror'. The United States has also recently begun to implement a five-year $ 750 million development strategy for Pakistan's frontier region.

The Government is concerned that arms and security assistance received by Pakistan is not relevant only for counter-terrorism and could create regional imbalances. India's concerns have been coveyed to the United States. Government continues to take all necessary steps to safeguard India's security.

Extradition of terrorists

†1461. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is unnecessary delay in the extradition of large numbers of terrorists living abroad;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government is not presenting this case properly before foreign Governments;

(c) if so, whether Government would take any step for early extradition of dreaded terrorists for the sake of Country's safety; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No, there is no delay on the part of Government in taking action for the extradition of terrorists living abroad. However, the decision making process

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

in a foreign country involves the extradition court and other authorities, which often prolongs the process.

(c) and (d) The Government constantly pursue extradition cases with the concerned foreign Governments and intervene at appropriate diplomatic level from time to time for early conclusion of extradition proceedings.

Agreement on sale of Uranium

†1462. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Australia has imposed condition of signature by India on NPT for the sale of Uranium turning down the earlier agreement regarding sale of uranium to India;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the steps taken by Government for receiving support of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG); and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for alternative arrangements for the supply of Uranium?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There has been no agreement with Australia regarding sale of Uranium to India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per the Joint Statement of July 18, 2005, the United States has committed to work with its friends and allies to adjust international regimes to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India. Government have also taken steps to seek the support of NSG countries. This has been done through briefings in NSG member country capitals and in New Delhi as welll as in dialogue with the NSG. The issue of an India-specific exemption to the NSG Guidelines has also been taken up at political levels during visits abroad as well as incoming visits. Once the NSG decides on an appropriate India-specific exemption, it would be possible to discuss alternative arrangements for supply of Uranium.

Blockade of Gaza Strip

1463. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the fact that Israel for a long period has made blockade of Gaza Strip;

(b) if so, the reasons for Government maintaining a silence over the Israel's occupation and blockade of Gaza Strip violating all international and humanitarian norms; and

(c) when is Government going to demand an end to the blockade of the Gaza Strip and call for an urgent Security Council session to discuss the issue?

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